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Appendix A

Public Involvement Process and Comments

The public involvement process has been critical for development of the current Washington State Assessment of Need (AON), and defines how the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will manage the Forest Legacy Program into the next decade.

The public involvement process began well before any major drafting of the new AON. Public and stakeholder input started almost as soon as Forest Legacy Program land transactions began after the 1993 AON was completed. Very early in the program, it became evident from comment and experience that the Rural Residential Zone contained limited opportunity for conservation of undeveloped open working forest landscapes for sustaining multiple use goals. The 1993 Assessment of Need (AON) designated the Rural Residential Zone as the Forest Legacy Area of the program. The state, partnering land trusts, and stakeholders found that in order to best meet the goals of the AON (protection of present and future timber management opportunities, habitat for native fish, wildlife or plants, and water quality), limited resources also should be used conserving lands in the Forest Resources. Comments received during this time focused on requests for expanding the program to other parts of the state, including the Forest Resource Zone for future transactions.

When Washington State initiated the public process for amending the 1993 AON, the primary questions asked, in addition to updating goals, objectives and criteria were: 1. Should the program place priority on land acquisition in threatened parts of the Forest Resource Zone? And 2. Should the program be expanded geographically to other parts of the state that can exhibit the need?

The Washington State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) selected a sub-committee to provide guidance for amendment of the AON, and assembled to meet for the first time February 28, 2002, and again on March 13, 2003. The sub-committee recommended guidelines for amending the AON, and program goals for development of objectives and parcel evaluation criteria. The SCSCC is made up of consulting foresters, environmental and conservation organizations,

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representatives of the forest products industry, land trusts, local, state and federal government.

On June 5, 2002, a website was posted and news release sent announcing the proposed amendment of the AON and requesting public comment about the Forest Legacy Area and goals of the program. The website provided an e-mail address for response, and provided links to the 1993 Assessment of Need, description of the program, history of the program, and related links posted by the US Forest Service and Land Trust Alliance.

In July 2002, DNR made contact with stakeholders and partners who had participated in the program, showed interest in the program, or may have interest in the program to solicit comment. This list included land trusts, local government, county planning offices, tribal governments, and state agencies including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Cle Elum Senior Center 719 East 3 rd Street Cle Elum, Washington	September 12, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Centralia Forest Park-Kitchen #1 Off Exit 82 Centralia, Washington	September 16, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Longview Lower Columbia Community College Student Center, Conference Rooms B & C Off 15 th Ave	September 17, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Issaquah 1730 10 th Ave NW Across from Costco	September 18, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Deer Parks, Washington City Building 316 E Crawford	September 19, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Sedro Woolley, Washington Department of Natural Resources Northwest Region Office 919 North Township Street	September 24, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM
Port Angeles, Washington Peninsula Community College 1502 E Lauridsen, Room A-12	September 25, 2002	7:00-9:30 PM

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On August 4, 2004, the final draft document will be sent out to stakeholders, the SFSCC, and US Forest Service for review and final comments.

To date, the vast majority of comments have supported expansion of the program geographically to other parts of the state not included in the current AON; to open the program to all parts of the state that meet the need, goals, and objectives of the program, and to include lands located in the Forest Resource Zone as part of the Forest Legacy Area.

Comments heavily support the original (1993 AON) goals of the program to protect present and future timber management opportunities, water quality and habitat for native fish and wildlife and plants; and an additional goal of protecting existing landscapes to discourage further fragmentation was added. Comments supported the use of population data to provide focus and priority in mapping the Forest Legacy Area.



NEWS RELEASE

June 5, 2002

Contact: Jane Chavey, 360-902-1721

No. 02-52

DNR Forest Legacy Program Welcomes Public Input

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public recommendations for revisions to the Washington State Forest Legacy Program direction.

The US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, run with participating states, was established to work with private and public landowners to protect forestlands that are threatened with encroaching development. The federal Forest Legacy funding helps acquire conservation easements for private “working forestlands”— those in forestry – which have been determined to be in danger of conversion to commercial or residential development.

Maintaining intact working forests and forest corridors provides benefits through the protection of habitat for native fish and wildlife, soil and watershed protection, timber products, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities.

In 1993, after receiving public comments on the proposed program goals, the Washington State Forest Legacy Assessment of Need was originally written. The Assessment identified areas of need for protection from advancing development, and how Washington proposed to carry out the program. Washington State was one of the first states to participate in this US Forest Service program. Its Forest Legacy program and Washington’s forest landowners have been very successful in competing for funding at the national level.

Public process begins

DNR, as the Forest Legacy program manager in the state, has determined the need to revise the state’s Forest Legacy Assessment of Need because of rapid population growth in many areas of the state, which affects many forestlands throughout Washington. The public is invited to participate in program modifications during the next several months.

DNR is seeking input about whether the areas to be included in Forest Legacy purchases should be expanded, and if so, into which parts of Washington State. The current program document, Washington’s Forest Legacy Assessment of Need, and information about the program, is posted at DNR’s website: http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/amp/forest_legacy/legacyhome.html

Prior to **July 1, 2002**, please submit written recommendations for the state’s Forest Legacy program to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Forest Legacy Assessment of Need, P.O. Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014. Or, email: forest.legacy@wadnr.gov

Future opportunities for public comment will follow update of the assessment.

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NEWS RELEASE

August 30, 2002

Contact: Jane Chavey, 360-902-1721

No. 02-86

DNR to hold Public Workshops on Forest Legacy Program

Public comments wanted for program that protects forestlands from development

OLYMPIA – The public is invited to meetings to be held by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to gather ideas about the proposed expansion of the Forest Legacy Program in Washington State. DNR is preparing to make revisions to the state's Forest Legacy "Assessment of Need," which defines the program goals and criteria. DNR is seeking comments for changes to this plan.

DNR Forest Legacy staff will present information about the program and the assessment, and take public comments. Public meetings will be held during September throughout the state:

- September 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cle Elum Senior Center, 719 East 3rd Street in Cle Elum
- September 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Foorest Park — Kitchen #1 off Exit 82 in Centralia
- September 17, at 7:00 p.m. at Lower Columbia Community College Student Center, Conf. Rms B and C, off 15th Ave in Longview
- September 18, at 7:00p.m, at 1730 10th Ave NW, across from Costco in Issaquah
- September 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Deer Park City Building, 316 E Crawford in Deer Park
- September 24, at 7:00 p.m. at DNR's Office, 919 N. Township St., Sedro Woolley
- September 25, at 7:00 p.m. at Peninsula Community College, 1502 E Lauridsen, Room A-12 in Port Angeles

The Forest Legacy Program works with willing landowners to protect forestlands that are threatened with the encroachment of residential or commercial development. This federal conservation program is run in conjunction with participating states, which compete for acquisition funding for conservation easements for these private forestland parcels. Maintaining intact forestlands provides public benefits through the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, aesthetics, timber products, and recreational opportunities.

Washington State's Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (Assessment) was written in 1993 after receiving public comments. Washington was one of the first states to participate in this US Forest Service program and has helped landowners to be successful in competing for the funding. DNR is revising the state's Assessment because rapid population growth pressures are affecting many forestlands throughout the state. The current Assessment and information about the Forest Legacy Program is posted on DNR's website: <http://www.wa.gov/dnr>

DNR would like to have the public examine such issues as the criteria for parcel selection including habitat for at-risk species, recreational opportunities, and locations related to public forestlands. Public input is also desired concerning whether the Forest Legacy area boundaries

(MORE)

should be expanded and, if so, to which parts of Washington State, and whether the goals identified in the 1993 plan should remain in effect or be expanded upon.

Please submit comments for changes to the Washington State Forest Legacy assessment to the following email address: forest.legacy@wadnr.gov, or send written comments to Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Forest Legacy Assessment of Need, P.O. Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014. Comments should be sent prior to September 30, 2002.

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Appendix B

Ecoregion Biota

This appendix will contain descriptions of the biota of each of Washington's ecoregions, excerpted from the 2003 Washington *Natural Heritage Plan*. A sample follows:

Pacific Northwest Coast

Coniferous forests dominate the vegetation of the ecoregion. Lowland forests are dominated by western hemlock, Douglas-fir, and western redcedar. In the coastal fog belt, Douglas-fir is rare and Sitka spruce becomes abundant. Forests in the mountains are mostly dominated by Pacific silver fir and mountain or western hemlock. High elevations in the Olympic Mountains have subalpine parkland and alpine habitats.

Two of the largest estuaries on North America's west coast are part of this ecoregion. Other special habitats include coastal dunes, wetlands, riparian areas, and sphagnum bogs. The Olympic Mountains are rich in rare plant species due to their isolation, the number of unusual habitats, and the presence of steep environmental gradients. They include species endemic to the Olympic Mountains as well as species that are disjunct from other mountainous areas.

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Appendix C

Project Nomination Form

This appendix will contain a copy of the Form used to nominate projects/parcels for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program.

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Appendix D

Watershed Administrative Units included in the 2004 Forest Legacy Area

The list of Watershed Administrative Units (WAUs) is being developed and will not be finalized until the proposed Forest Legacy Area (FLA) is approved by the State Forester.

The list identifies the WAUs shown on the FLA map, and provides an easier means for the state program, partners and landowners to determine whether or not a property is within the FLA.

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Appendix E

Parcel Evaluation Worksheet – FY 2007

Point values are based on the relative priority of the criteria as listed in the State Assessment of Need.

I. THREAT OF CONVERSION (24 Points Possible):

- A. Stops threat of development on project area; removes in holding; blocks critical access.
(6 points)
 - B. Hinders development; is located in the Forest Resource Zone and abuts Rural Residential zoning
(4 points)
- OR
- is located in the Forest Resource Zone and is within 4 miles of Rural Residential Zoning.
(2 Points)
 - C. Imminently threatened by conversion to non-forest use (see definition), parcel will be converted within 5 years. (7 points)
 - D. High potential for development due to property characteristics that make the parcel desirable for present or future development including favorable terrain, soils, proximity to utilities, roads, and amenities such as scenic views and waterfront. (7 points)

Score _____ of 24

II. WORKING FOREST (16 Points Possible):

- A. Parcel is currently managed as working forest, for commodity production, and landowner agrees to a management plan supporting commodity production in the future
(5 points)
- B. Parcel is part of a 1000 acre, or greater, contiguous block of working forest
(4 points)
- C. Parcel is greater than 80 acres in size
(4 Points)
- D. Landowner is willing to fix the number of potential landowners on the property: i.e. tax parcel lot sizes at not

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less than 160 acres, or is willing to reduce the number of tax lots on the property
(3 points).

Score _____ **of 16**

III. WATER QUALITY (13 Points Possible):

- A. Riparian area; if parcel has over 500' shoreline along a water body or wetland
(3 points)
- B. Contributes to a regional drinking water aquifer; provides recharge for an aquifer or lies within a mile of a public water supply or drains into water supply
(3 points)
- C. Parcel is in a priority watershed listed by the Department of Ecology
(4 points)
- D. Substantially provides clean water for wildlife; contains a water body or system
(3 points)

Score _____ **of 13**

IV. FISH AND WILDLIFE (13 Points Possible):

- A. Fish and Wildlife Habitat;
(4 points if parcel contains a mix of fish and upland wildlife habitats; 2 points if only fish; or 1 point if upland wildlife habitat)
- B. Threatened or Endangered species
(4 points if parcel supports state or federal species communities, or associations; 2 point if suitable habitat exists and will be sustained for threatened or endangered species)
- C. Parcel includes ecological communities that are decreasing or uncommon as listed in the State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan or a federal plan
(3 points)
- D. Acquisition supports current or future conservation plans, initiatives or opportunities to provide habitat for recovery of ESA species; i.e. supports established HCP, supports existing management plan, protects important habitats
(2 points)

Score _____ **of 13**

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V. LANDSCAPE FOCUS (12 Points Possible):

- A. Abuts protected private, city, county, state, or federal lands; project will increase overall protected area in one contiguous block
(1-3 points based on number of sides that abut)
- B. Proximity to protected land
(less than 1 mile distance: 3 points; 1-5 miles: 3 points, greater than 5 miles=1 point)
- C. Part of a larger conservation acquisition or project with the similar goals as the legacy program.
(3 points)
- E. Parcel is part of a recognized forest landscape conservation effort with an established plan considering protection of lands in the Forest Resource Zone critical for protection of conservation values as a major focus of the plan
(3 points)

Score _____ of 12

VI. READINESS/COST SHARE/LEVERAGE (10 Points Possible):

- A. Forest Stewardship Plan; completed (2 points), started (1 point)
- B. Option to purchase signed by parties
(2 points)
- C. A component of due diligence completed; appraisal, title search, survey, Phase I environmental assessment
(1 point)
- D. Leverage commitment from applicant and or demonstrated willingness to cost share.
(2 points)
- E. Demonstrated ability to monitor, administer and enforce the program over time. Funding will be proved for monitoring
(2 points)
- F. Timely Use of Federal Funds. Can funds for the project be spent within one year of federal funding.
(1 points)

Score _____ of 10

VII. OTHER IMPORTANT VALUES (9 Points Possible):

- A. Public Recreation; entire parcel has access for public use (4 points) or; if access is limited
(2 points)

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- B.** Scenic; parcel has frontage on a designated Scenic Route or is part of an important scenic view shed.
(3 points if on scenic route; or 1 point if in view shed)
- C.** Cultural or Historic interest: parcel contains sites listed on federal or state database
(2 points)

Score _____ **of 9**

VIII. CONSERVATION EASEMENT (3 Possible Points):

- A.** Conservation Easement Favored over Fee Interest Acquisition
(3 points)

Score _____ **of 3**

TOTAL SCORE OUT OF POSSIBLE 100 POINTS _____

ADDITIONAL FACTORS:

- Favor parcels that better support state and federal fire prevention goals
- Favor a previously funded project
- Favor a project with lower cost per acre land values
- Favor a project that protects a wildlife corridor

Definitions

Threatened by conversion to non-forest use

Forest lands in transition to rural residential use.

75 percent forested

Forest cover is at least 75 percent. Non-forest area does not exceed 25 percent (E.g., rock outcroppings, bare land not supporting native forest stands, human-made disturbance). County and forest management roads count as forested land